

DOE Weekly Field Memo – September 9, 2009

From the Department of Education:

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- Training: Free and Reduced Lunch Approving Officer and Verification
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Training: Fall 2009 Vermont Alternate Assessment Portfolio (VTAAP) Rollout Sessions

Audience: Special Education Case Managers, Related Service Providers, Special Education Directors, Principals, Superintendents

This training will provide updates to the alternate assessment to the NECAP for Fall 2010. Because of the changes to this assessment, case managers and others involved in the development of the portfolio, are *strongly* encouraged to attend. The training will be conducted multiple times via the Learning Network of VT (LNV) video conferencing system. To register, go to: http://creator.zoho.com/doe_user/alternate-assessment-rollout-sessions/form-perma/Alternate_Assessment_Rollout_Sessions/. Documents and materials will not be provided at these sessions but can be downloaded from this site after September 15, 2009: http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_alternate.html
Contact: Lucille Chicoine at (802) 828-5922 or lucille.chicoine@state.vt.us for registration information or Cyndie Moran for assessment related information at (802) 828-0646 or cindy.moran@state.vt.us

Training: Free and Reduced Lunch Approving Officer and Verification

Audience: Superintendents, Principals, School Food Service Programs Staff, Schools with Milk Programs, Approving Officers and Verification Officials

The Department's Child Nutrition Programs will be holding training sessions via the Learning Network of VT at six school sites around the state on September 17th and four sites on September 24th. To register visit <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html#free> or submit the registration form that was in the school renewal packet. This is also an opportunity to learn more about extending benefits to categorically eligible children in a household. As a reminder, schools are required to review and approve applications within 10 days of receiving them. CDs with approving officer manuals and materials were sent to each supervisory union earlier in August. These materials may also be downloaded from the [Child Nutrition Web page](#).

Contact: Cheryl Barrows at (802) 828- 2447 or cheryl.barrows@state.vt.us

Training: An Introductory Forum on School-Wide Positive Behavior Supports (PBS) - Dr. George Sugai

Audience: Principals, Special Education Administrators, Superintendents

The Vermont PBS State-Wide Implementation Team has organized a series of training activities for schools new to the PBS effort. These activities are designed to take a school from information gathering to implementation of the universal components of PBS. For more information visit:

<http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html#forum>.

Registration contact: Anne Dubie at (802) 656-5775 or anne.dubie@uvm.edu

DOE Contact: Sabine Baldwin at (802) 828-0183 or sabine.baldwin@state.vt.us

Registration: Statewide Spelling Bee

Audience: All Administrators of Students in Grades 5-8

The Statewide Spelling Bee competition is scheduled for Wednesday, March 17, 2010 and will once again be held at St. Michael's College. The champion of this competition will win an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. to represent Vermont and compete in the 2010 Scripps National Spelling Bee from May 24 to 30, 2010. Schools must register with Scripps in order to compete in the state bee. This year, schools will be required to pay the fee directly to Scripps at <http://www.spellingbee.com/enrollment>. Once registered, Scripps will let you know how to access competition information and study guides. Scripps is encouraging schools to register by October 14, 2009.

Contact: Jill Remick at (802) 828-3154 or jill.remick@state.vt.us

Request for Proposal: Real World Design Challenge

Audience: Superintendents, Principals, Science Teachers, Math Teachers, Career and Technical Directors

The Real World Design Challenge is about to crank up for the '09-'10 season. This challenge represents Vermont's involvement in a national STEM (Science, Technology Engineering and Math)-related program that challenges high school students to develop high-end solutions for aeronautics and green technologies. This challenge will be released on Sept. 14. Schools then have until Nov. 16 to build a team to accept the challenge. From Nov. 16 through early January the team works to complete the task for the state competition. One team from the state competition will then head for Washington D.C. in March to compete nationally. For information about the overall program, interested participants should visit this Web site: <http://www.scied.science.doe.gov/RWDC/index.html>. The Vermont Department of Education is also soliciting an entity or individuals to coordinate the program statewide through a Title IID competitive grant process. This grant will assist in keeping the teams supported throughout the challenge. Visit http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_edtech.html#challenge_rfp.

Contact: Peter Drescher at (802) 828-5149 or peter.drescher@state.vt.us

Request for Proposal: ARRA: Vermont Distance Learning Initiative

Audience: Superintendents, Principals, Technology Coordinators, Outside Non-Profit Entities

The purpose of the Title II, Part D (Enhancing Education Through Technology) competitive grant program is to provide financial assistance to schools with high poverty and the greatest need for technology support and/or schools identified for improvement. The charge is to select a Vermont-based entity to organize, manage and lead a statewide distance learning initiative that will support Vermont schools in their efforts to deliver and eventually develop both virtual learning curriculum and opportunities for students. This is a statewide implementation and will require a group or group of entities that can demonstrate the capacity necessary to successfully implement and deliver a sustainable model. Proposals for the program are due at the Department of Education office on November 20, 2009. There will be a requirement for applicants to attend an hour-long session at Vermont Fest on November 6 as well. Visit http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_federal/grants.html#distance.

Questions should be addressed to Peter Drescher at (802) 828-5149 or peter.drescher@state.vt.us

Reminder: Grant Application: FY 09-10 BEST/Act 230

Audience: Principals, Superintendents, Special Education Administrators

Act 230 (reauthorized as Act 157) requires that every local school district have an educational support system for children who require additional assistance in order to succeed in the general education environment. Based on the initial successes of the Vermont Positive Behavioral Supports (PBS) effort, the Commissioner has designated PBS as the priority area for use of these funds. All BEST/Act 230 Grant Applications must be submitted electronically, signed by the superintendent, no later than September 15, 2009. Applications must be submitted and approved before funds are expended. The BEST/Act 230 Grant Application information can be found at:

http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_safeschools.html#best_230.

Contact: Sabine Baldwin at (802) 828-0183 or sabine.baldwin@state.vt.us

Press Release: Vermont Teacher Receives National Driver Education Award

Audience: All

Barbara Brody of Underhill, a driver education teacher at Peoples Academy in Morrisville, recently received the nation's highest award for excellence in driver and traffic safety education, the Richard Kaywood Memorial Award. The award is given annually to an outstanding driver and traffic safety educator at the American Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association's annual conference in

Pennsylvania. See the complete press release at:

http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/press_releases.html.

Contact: Lindsay Townsend at (802) 828-5416 or Lindsay.townsend@state.vt.us

From the Vermont Department of Health:

Student Assistance Reports for 2008-2009 Available

Audience: Principals

Final school level reports for schools submitting Student Assistance Program (SAP) data in 2008-2009 are now available in pdf format. The reports summarize the program services provided throughout the school year, as well as the characteristics of students seen one-on-one or in groups. Email your request, including the school name, to avandon@vdh.state.vt.us.

Contact: Anne Van Donsel, Vermont Department of Health, Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs at (802) 652-4142 or avandon@vdh.state.vt.us

Community Flu Forums Planned

Audience: Superintendents, Principals, School Nurses

'Know What To Do About The Flu' forums will be held during September Emergency Preparedness Month to brief local leaders and residents about preparations underway for the new flu – 2009 H1N1 influenza – along with the regular seasonal flu this fall. Hosted by Public Safety Districts, the forums will include State officials and public health experts on hand to discuss preparations the state is making. Topics will include plans for offering the H1N1 vaccine to those groups most at risk for serious illness, as well as actions communities and individuals can take to cope with flu. All forums will run from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Sept 22 - Burlington, Hilton Hotel

Sept. 29 - Rutland Holiday Inn

Sept. 30 - Dean Center in Springfield

Oct. 1 - Lyndon Institute

Visit <http://www.healthvermont.gov/news/2009/090909flu.aspx>.

Extensive information, tools and resources about seasonal and pandemic flu, healthy habits and preparedness are available at the Health Department's Web site: healthvermont.gov or by dialing 2-1-1.

You can also follow on Twitter at twitter.com/healthvermont.

Other:

H1N1 Webinar Hosted by National School Boards Association (NSBA)

Audience: All

NSBA is hosting a Webinar on H1N1 flu for school policymakers on September 15th. Join experts from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and U.S. Department of Education as they share with you guidance on how to prepare for what could be a challenging school year. "When the doors are open what else are you inviting? H1N1 the Uninvited Guest"; Date: Tuesday, September 15, 2009; Time: 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. EDT. Register now at: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/624304120>.

Weekly Field Memo is Online!

The DOE Weekly Field Memo is archived on the Department of Education Web site at http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/field_memo.html. Field Memos and the corresponding attachments are available for download. For Field Memo information three months or older, or for other questions, please contact Jill Remick, communications director, at (802) 828-3154 or jill.remick@state.vt.us.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For the Department of Education Web site see: <http://education.vermont.gov/>. For upcoming events or professional development opportunities, see the DOE Calendar of Events located at: <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html>.

Main Department Line: (802) 828-3135

NOTE: For comments or questions specific to the messages above, please contact the person listed. DO NOT reply to this message.

This Field Memo is posted weekly by the Department of Education to better organize our e-communications to the field. There may be times when separate messages from the department will still be sent.